

REMARKS

A petition for a two month extension of time has today been filed as a separate paper and a copy is attached hereto.

Page 17 of the specification has been amended mainly for the purpose of correcting "smaller" at line 20 to read "larger", consistent with the language of original claim 2 which constitutes original description and "supports" the amendment to the specification.

With regard to new claims 9 and 10 see Figs. 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 and page 19, line 10 to page 22, line 1.

The rejection of claims 1-8 for obviousness over Daiwan in view of Lewellen et al is respectfully traversed. The Examiner acknowledges that "Daiwan does not explicitly teach a collar" and cites Lewellen, Jr. et al for its disclosure of a "collar bearing". However, the "collar bearings" (elements 24) of Lewellen, Jr. et al function as support shafts in that they are received in the barrel openings and rotatably support the barrel 10 as shown in the drawings and as described, for example, at column 1, lines 50-54. Thus, the "collar bearings" of Lewellen, Jr. et al are the equivalent of the support shafts of 17, 18 of Daiwan and it is not clear what the allegedly obvious combination would be. How would one skilled in the art have combined the "collar bearings" of Lewellen, Jr. et al with the structure of Daiwan? It is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to combine the "collar bearings" of Lewellen, Jr. et al with the hollow shafts 17, 18 of Daiwan. No such combination is rational.

Serial No. 10/766,331

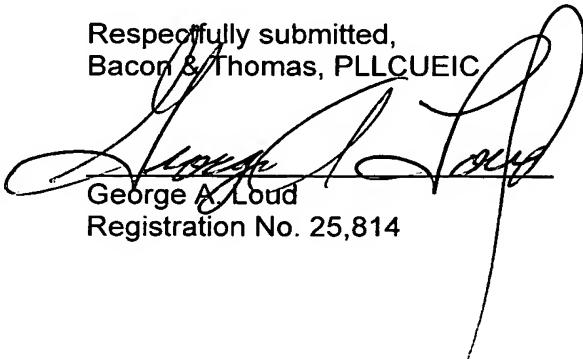
Further, applicant's claim 1 has now been amended to define the collar as having a "slotted portion" as extending into the large diameter bore of the hollow support shaft and as having "an outer circumferential projection engaged within said circumferentially extending groove" within the large inner diameter bore of the hollow shaft. No such structure is in any way suggested by the references of record.

Claim 4 has been amended to define the bush as having a slotted portion and structure holding the bush within boss, none of which is suggested by the prior art of record.

Finally, none of the structure recited by new claims 9 and 10 is in any way suggested by the prior art of record.

In conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of record with a view toward allowance of the claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted,
Bacon & Thomas, PLLCUEIC


George A. Loud
Registration No. 25,814

Date: December 20, 2007

Bacon & Thomas
625 Slaters Lane
Alexandria, VA 22314-1176

Atty Dkt: UEIC3001
Telephone: 703-683-0500